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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/4

C. Information received from the United Nations system

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

1. In the context of monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[1] the Department of Economic and Social Affairs exchanges information on activities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action with the Organization of American States (OAS). This exchange helps keep the organization abreast of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development on issues related to small island developing States. It also helps provide the Commission with current information on the implementation of the Programme of Action in the Caribbean. The Department relies on information from the organization for reporting to the Commission. Since OAS is actively involved in sustainable development activities in Caribbean small island developing States, and is the executor of significant sustainable development projects, the information it supplied has been very useful to the Commission in its deliberations on sustainable development issues related to small island developing States.

2. The Department maintained contacts with OAS and, on several occasions, areas of possible cooperation were explored jointly. OAS participated in a consultative meeting among regional institutions, organized by the United Nations and convened in New York in February 1998, which followed up on decisions taken by the General Assembly during its nineteenth special session, held to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The meeting focused on actions that regional institutions, such as OAS, could take to promote increased regional implementation of Agenda 21 and helped to identify key regional actions that could further sustainable development objectives.

3. Under the United Nations Trust Fund for New and Renewable Sources of Energy established by the Government of Italy, technical cooperation activities have been undertaken to assist small island developing States, including States members of OAS, to promote the use of solar home systems for lighting and for powering small appliances such as radios, televisions, cassette recorders, refrigerators and water purifiers, thereby contributing to improving the quality of life of people living in remote locations and reducing their reliance on imported fossil fuels. Projects have been developed for Grenada and Saint Lucia. Training of personnel is also envisaged under this technical cooperation activity.

4. Exchange of information and substantive reports was pursued with OAS on the advancement of the status of women, youth matters and the eradication of poverty. The youth focal points of OAS participated in the preparations for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held at Lisbon, Portugal, from 8 to 12 August 1998. OAS attended the international preparatory meetings for the Conference and the Conference itself.

Notes

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.